

Suzuki Music Association of California / Los Angeles Branch  
Instructions for **Guitar Graduation 2021**  
Graduation Date: Sunday, February 21

Location: Zoom

Time: 2:00pm

Admission to the Graduation Concert is free, DO invite friends and family!

In May of 1979, SMAC/LA initiated a thrilling graduation event for violin students, inspired by Dr. Suzuki's annual graduation in Japan each March. The Japanese concerts include about 3,000 children. Ours, while smaller, have been very beautiful and exciting. The number of violin graduates has grown with each graduation, now numbering around two hundred, twice the number graduated in 1979.

Suzuki graduations in other instruments are beginning to grow as well. This year will be our fifth Guitar Graduation in Los Angeles, and will be held over Zoom. The graduation program is designed to offer the student, parent, and teacher an especially meaningful and memorable musical experience and is intended to:

- 1) continually raise the standards of students and teachers,
- 2) provide incentive for in-depth study, polish and review of the literature,
- 3) provide a means of recognition for students who have achieved certain goals.

Graduates will record the appropriate piece for their respective graduation levels. Listener-commentators make recorded comments based on the following criteria used by Dr. Suzuki: tone (including vibrato from level four and up), intonation, rhythm, tempo and musical interpretation. Teachers have detailed instructions for preparing the recordings and will assist students in submitting their recordings by **the January 31st, 2021 deadline.**

Ideally the student will present the graduation piece as a polished work, prepared over sufficient time for a truly musical performance, rather than as a new solo piece. Each graduate should be studying approximately one book level beyond his or her graduation piece. A student may be graduated from a maximum of two levels at any one graduation. Students should be prepared to play a solo in the event there are no other graduates in his/her level. The graduate has the option to decline playing at the performance if they are uncomfortable playing alone. A certificate of graduation and a trophy will be available for pickup starting February 21, 2021. The location of pickup has yet to be determined, and we may mail out instead.

To cover the cost of teacher's time, trophies, certificates, and listeners' time, a fee of \$45 is required for each student for each level. The Suzuki graduation application process is online only.

The student and their families do NOT need to be SMAC/LA members. NOTE: Your teacher **MUST** be a SMAC/LA Teacher Member.

## Membership Requirements:

TEACHERS must have a SMAC/LA Teacher Membership.

The Suzuki graduation registration is online. Due to strict tax issues, all payments must be paid online. If a family cannot pay online, we ask that the teacher pay for the family online and collect the money from the family directly.

## TEACHERS TO- DO LIST:

Registrations and Recordings Submissions online only: Please send between Jan. 11 and January 31.

**DEADLINE:** 11:59pm: JANUARY 31, 2021 (NO Exceptions)

**Forward the 'Invitation' and graduation philosophy to your graduating students.**

- See 'Making Graduation Recordings page.'

Please submit the form, fee, and recording(s) at the following address:

<http://www.suzukimusiclosangeles.com/guitar>

**Any other correspondence or questions should be sent to [suzukilessonsla@gmail.com](mailto:suzukilessonsla@gmail.com) (Molly White) for guitar related questions. Once the recording is processed, the link will be sent to the appropriate listener. The family and teacher will receive a confirmation that we have received the recording. Allow one week for processing.**

Fee: To cover the costs of, certificates, trophies, and listeners' time, a \$45 graduation fee is required for **each and every graduation level**. Families will need to register each level separately.

If this is a hardship for some families, the teacher should contact Molly White at [suzukilessonsla@gmail.com](mailto:suzukilessonsla@gmail.com).

The schedule for the SMAC/LA Guitar Graduation February 21, 2020 will be as follows:

## Concert Dress:

Girls -- Dresses or dress pants / blouses, no gym shoes, T-shirts or jeans.

Boys – Dress pants / shirts; no gym shoes, T-shirts or jeans.

\* If nothing dressy is available, do your best to have a polished appearance for this special event!

## Guitar Levels:

Twinkle Level: Twinkle Theme and Variations (with accompaniment)

Level 1: Perpetual Motion (with accompaniment)

Level 2: Meadow Minuet (with accompaniment)

Level 3: Waltz by B. Calatayud

Level 4: Arietta Theme and Variations by Kuffner

Level 5: L. Mozart, Bourree

Level 6: Bach, Gavotte I & II

Level 7: Sor, Rondo, Op. 22, IV

Level 8: Any piece at this level